

Off Highway Vehicle License Fund Grant Application Packet

October 30, 2015

Submitted by the Central Coast Motorcycle Association

www.centralcoastmoto.com

P. O. Box 4942

San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Division of California Trail Users Coalition

www.ctuc.org

3550 Foothill Boulevard

Glendale, Ca

91214

Please contact: Bruce Whitcher

1670 Pin Oak Lane

Templeton Ca 93465

User501968@aol.com

805-459-7111

Request for Supplemental Funding- Pozo La Panza Reroute Planning Project



1. **Date of Application: October 30, 2015**
2. **Applicant -** Central Coast Motorcycle Association Division of
California Trail User's Coalition
3550 Foothill Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91214

See attached verification of non-profit status

3. **Project title-** Request for Supplemental Funding- Pozo La Panza Reroute Planning Project
4. **Amount of funding requested: \$12,000.00**
5. **Complete Project description**

This application requests supplemental funding from the San Luis Obispo County OHV Grants program to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA), for rerouting or relocation of ten OHV trails and possible closure and restoration of the trail sections they replace. This project would be a continuation of the Environmental Assessment funded by the San Luis Obispo County in 2014.

Progress to date: Following the award of County OHV grant funds in 2013 a contract for preparation of planning documents was awarded to Althouse and Meade. This firm coordinated the project with the Forest Service and conducted biological surveys throughout 2014 and 2015. Accomplishments to date include filing of a project Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, completion of early and late season biological surveys on all trail segments, preparation of a draft soils and hydrology plan, an erosion control plan, and a preliminary review of existing cultural resource surveys.

The Forest Service botanist requested late season plant surveys that were not anticipated in the original proposal. In the course of the project new regulations were implemented that required preparation of an erosion control plan that was not included in the original bid. In addition, the Forest Service archaeologist retired making it necessary to retain an outside consultant to complete a survey of existing heritage site documents. Cultural Resource Management Services of Paso Robles was retained for this task. Also, a soils resource technical report needs to be completed. These factors make it necessary to request additional funding for completion of the project.

Background:

In 2010 the Central Coast Motorcycle Association recognized the need for a comprehensive assessment of the Pozo La Panza OHV trail system and commissioned a study of the system. A comprehensive assessment of the trail system was completed in June 2011 by Trails Unlimited, an Enterprise Unit of the Forest Service that specializes in trail design, layout and construction.

The Pozo trail system is located 17 miles East of Santa Margarita on approximately 14,000 acres of National Forest Lands. The system is composed of fire breaks, utility access roads, ranch roads, and purpose built OHV trails. Many trail sections were never designed for OHV use and require frequent maintenance to reduce the potential for soil erosion and watershed sedimentation. The Trails Unlimited Assessment identified eleven sections of trail that should be rerouted due to excessive grade, unfavorable soil type, and drainage problems.

The Environmental Assessment funded in 2014 is near completion. No significant issues with the purposed trail reroutes have been identified. For a complete description of the project please see the original project application. This information will be provided upon request.

Table 1 – Proposed trail reroutes

Map ref.	Trail Name	Trail number	Add (mi)	Close/restore (mi)
1	Howard's Bypass	15E05	0.2	0.14
2	Tower	16E24	0.24	0.22
3	Las Chiches	16E08	0.29	0.29
4	Navajo Bypass	16E23	0.56	0.43
5	Benchmark	28S02	0.22	0.20
6	Mare Springs	16E16	0.25	0.25
7	Mare Springs	16E16	0.36	0.36
8	La Panza Bypass	18E05	0.24	0.24
9 a	Las Chiches Cutoff	16E02	0.20	0.20
9 b	Las Chiches Cutoff	16E02	0.09	0.09
10	Queen Bee	15E10	0.24	0.30
	Total mileage		2.98	2.72

By relocating the listed trail sections, the sustainability of the trail system would increase. This will allow for more time and money to be spent on the trail system as a whole and not on the continuous problem areas that currently exist.

6. Objective of the project

Complete additional Environmental Assessment Studies for Rerouting 10 sections of OHV trail on the Los Padres National Forest.

7. Project Development Schedule – 2016

Aug 2014- Sept 2015 specialist surveys

Sept - Dec 2016 document preparation

Dec 2015-Jan 2016 Forest Service review; public notice, comment, and record preparation

8. Project justification

Soil erosion is the primary adverse impact from OHV use. This project would significantly reduce the erosion potential of the trail system by rerouting around trail sections with excessive grade and restoring problem trail sections. In addition, this project would reduce maintenance costs and allow resources to be redirected to better maintaining the trail system as a whole. An additional benefit of the reroute project would be a reduction in soil loss from the trail tread. To summarize, this project will greatly improve the long term sustainability of trail system.

Unanticipated costs due to factors beyond our control have resulted in the project exceeding available funding. Supplemental funding will be necessary to complete the project.

Number of persons served:

Forest visitors access the trail system from two locations, the Turkey Flats and Navajo Flats staging areas. We estimate that the Navajo Flats staging area receives, at a minimum, 5000 and 7500 visits per year. This is based on traffic counter data collected by the Forest Service. Trail traffic counter data recorded during 2009 revealed that Burnout trail, which originates from the Navajo Flats Staging area, received approximately 10,000 trips. Red Hill Road, which provides access to the Navajo Flats staging area, received over 14,000 trips.¹

14% of “walk in” inquiries at the Forest Service office in Santa Maria were OHV related².

National Forest Visitor Use (NVUM) data was collected for Los Padres National Forest in 2009. Results are attached and can be verified by using the interactive web site found here: <http://apps.fs.usda.gov/nrm/nvum/results/A05007.aspx/Round2>. The Survey reports approximately 50 vehicles per day at the Turkey Flats staging area on the two days surveyed.³ Turkey Flats is a second staging area for the Pozo La Panza OHV area. NVUM survey data is not available for Navajo Flats.

OHV recreation is popular in San Luis Obispo County. San Luis Obispo OHV Registrations (green sticker) totaled 7,027 for a population of 253,600 (California Fuel Tax Study, 2006).⁴ OHV recreation is popular in the Western States. 17.6 % of the population over age 16 has participated in OHV use. 12% of population is 16 or older.⁵ (Cordell et al., 2008.)

¹ Trail Counter Data, Santa Lucia Ranger District, 2005-2009 – see Attachment B, Visitor Use Data

² Walk-in tally 2012, US Forest Service, Santa Maria District Office

³ Non-Proxy Results by Survey Day, National Visitor Use Monitoring, US Forest Service, 2009
<http://apps.fs.usda.gov/nrm/nvum/results/A05007.aspx/Round2>. Accessed Feb 2013.

⁴ Estimating the State Fuel Tax Paid on Gasoline Used in the Off-Highway Operation of Vehicles for Recreation: Survey Results, September 2006, Table 4.1, page 4-6. California State Parks.
<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/1140/files/fuel%20tax%20survey%20report.pdf>

⁵ Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation in the United States and its Regions and States: A National Report from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE), February, 2008, H. Ken Cordell
Carter J. Betz, Gary T. Green, Becky Stephens. USDA Forest Service, 2008.

Additional Types of Use

Forest Service records include the 2009 NVUM Activity Participation survey for Los Padres National Forest which is attached. There is no specific data available that indicates specific types of use for the Pozo La Panza area; however, the National Forest Visitor Use Surveys provide general information related to types of use encountered on the Los Padres National Forest.

The trail system is used for many purposes other than off-highway vehicle recreation. Uses of the area that are frequently observed include driving for pleasure, hiking/walking, camping, hunting, bicycling, wood gathering, target shooting and recreational mining.

Alternatives

Alternatives would include either delaying or terminating the project. The result would be that the environmental planning documents would not be completed in a timely manner or not completed. Valuable information has been obtained from the surveys conducted to date. The erosion control plan developed for this project is the very first of its kind and will be very likely to become a model for use by other Forests throughout the State. However, the goal of the project would not be achieved and the trail system would remain as it is. Maintenance costs would be higher and more frequent maintenance would be necessary. Erosion and soil loss would continue at the present rate. Over 5-10 years the trails would experience soil loss down to bed rock and would become further entrenched. This would complicate drainage and place the system at some risk of becoming non-maintainable.

A second alternative would be to delay the project pending funding from other sources. We considered requesting grant funding for this project from the State of California OHV Division, however non-profit organizations are ineligible for planning grants from that source. The Forest Service could apply for state funding for the project but they do not presently have sufficient staff for additional NEPA projects. Forest Service is supportive of the current project and has provided the necessary oversight, but is unable to provide additional staff support.

9. Long range plans and maintenance of the project

The proposal is included in the draft plan for developing a sustainable trail system as described in the 2011 Pozo La Panza Trail Assessment⁶. The Assessment recommends rerouting of trails for improved sustainability and correcting connectivity problems with the trail system. This is one of the first steps of a five-year strategic trail plan for managing the area.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/IrisRec1rpt.pdf>

⁶ Pozo La Panza Trail System Assessment, Trails Unlimited, US Forest Service Enterprise Team, 2011. See Attachment C.

Long term maintenance of the trail system will be provided through a combination of State of California OHV grants, the US Forest Service, volunteers, and possibly future San Luis Obispo County OHV grant funding.

10. Description of land status and location:

The project location is approximately 17 miles east of the Santa Margarita community and south of Highway 58 and is within the Pozo/ La Panza Place and has a Land-Use Zone of Back Country. The project is on National Forest lands.

11. Land owner authorization for the project

See attached letter of support from the US Forest Service

12. History of condition and status of resource and expected benefits

Over last six years there has been increased volunteer involvement in the management of the Pozo trail system. The condition of the trail system has been improved significantly. As a result of this effort problem sections of trails that required constant maintenance have been identified.

Though a cooperative effort, San Luis Obispo County, members of the Central Coast Motorcycle Association, the US Forest Service, and the State of California OHV Division the Navajo Flats Improvement project has been completed. An active maintenance program continues and there is a comprehensive OHV Trail Plan for the area.

13. Design plans - Maps showing trail reroute locations will be provided upon request.

14. Detailed description and estimated costs

Althouse and Meade will provide:

1. Soils resources technical report:	\$4,000
2. Botanist rare plant survey	\$4,000
3. Cultural Resources (archeology) report:	\$4,000
Total:	\$12,000

All costs were taken from project estimates. Actual costs may vary.

15. Amount of match funds, materials, and volunteer labor designated for project:

Volunteers have provided logistical support for specialists to visit remote areas of the trail system to allow completion of the necessary resource surveys. The majority of the time spent will be in

document preparation. This does not lend itself to volunteer participation.

Volunteer match

Item	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost
4x4 truck	day	\$120	1	\$120
equipment trailer	day	\$80	1	\$80
Yamaha Rhino	day	\$100	1	\$100
Volunteer labor	hr	\$20	8	\$160
Administrative costs (10%)				\$1200
Total match				\$1660.00 (~14%)

16. Experience of applicant in completing similar projects

2009 - The Central Coast Motorcycle Association first applied for San Luis Obispo County OHV License funds in 2009. The CCMA was awarded \$15,000 to complete trail maintenance and \$10,000 for specialist surveys needed to complete planning for the Navajo Flats Project. The trail maintenance was successfully completed by the California Conservation Corps and CCMA in April of 2009. The Navajo Flats Plan was completed by the US Forest Service in 2012 as the first phase of the current Navajo Flats Improvement Project.

2011 – The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded \$25,000 from the SLO County OHV License Fund for trail reconstruction. Work was completed on the Mare Springs trail in May 2011 by the CCC with the CCMA providing construction materials and logistical support.

2012 - The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded \$25,000 from the SLO County OHV License fund for a two phase project that would include phase 1, flagging of trail reroutes, followed by phase 2, environmental surveys necessary to study the reroutes for construction. The reroutes were flagged in during May-June of 2013 with the assistance of Trails Unlimited. We anticipate beginning the environmental assessment process once we have received grant funding.

2013 - The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded \$41,000 for furnishings for the Navajo Flats Improvement Project and \$8000 for development of the Turkey Flats Concept design through the San Luis Obispo County OHV Grants program. Both projects are well under way. In

addition, the CCMA received a Ground Operations grant for trail and facility maintenance from the State OHV Division grants program and \$19,000 from the Recreational Trails Program, also for the Navajo Flats Improvement Project.

2014 – The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded:

\$23,090.04 for restoration projects. Approximately 1000 linear feet of fencing was repaired last year using these funds. Additional work is anticipated this year when conditions permit.

\$41,000.00 for completing an Environmental Assessment for rerouting of 10 sections of OHV trail on the Los Padres National Forest. Significant progress has been made on this project, however there have been delays due to the retirement of the Forest archaeologist. We anticipate release of the environmental planning documents by January of 2016.

\$21,000.00 for the purchase of a trail dozer. This purchase has been completed and the dozer was used for maintenance last year.

2015 – The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded:

\$40,000 for Trail Maintenance projects

\$12,000 for Trail Maintenance Equipment Purchase

17. Allowable Use Criteria and Grant Evaluation Criteria

This project meets the criteria for both the planning and restoration categories by conservation of trails and facilities associated with the use of off-highway motor vehicles for recreation or motorized access to non-motorized recreation. This project:

- a) Sustains existing off-highway motor vehicle recreation opportunities through planning for the improvement of trails to reduce maintenance and impacts to resources
- b) Improves trails through the planning process that provide motorized access to non-motorized recreation activities.
 - i) Location, use or deterioration of a classified route and that cannot be mitigated by route maintenance.
- c) The project that provides planning for ecological restoration or repair to habitat damaged by either legal or illegal off highway motor vehicle use, and includes:
 - i) Removal of a road, trail or restoration of an area associated with the rerouting and subsequent closure of a designated road or trail.

Attachment 1 Verification of Non-Profit Status

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **MAR 11 2004**

FRIENDS OF EL MIRAGE
3550 FOOTHILL BLVD
GLENDALE, CA 91214-0000

Employer Identification Number:
95-4762400
DLN:
17053052736044
Contact Person: ID# 31117
KATHY L BURNS
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Dear Applicant:

Our letter dated January 2001, stated you would be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and you would be treated as a public charity during an advance ruling period.

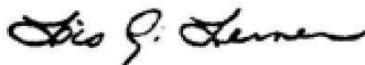
Based on our records and on the information you submitted, we are pleased to confirm that you are exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and you are classified as a public charity under the Code section listed in the heading of this letter.

Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, provides detailed information about your rights and responsibilities as an exempt organization. You may request a copy by calling the toll-free number for forms, (800) 829-3676. Information is also available on our Internet Web Site at www.irs.gov.

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll-free number shown in the heading between 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Please keep this letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,



Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 1050 (DO/CG)

pd

Attachment 2 Forest Service Letter of Support



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Los Padres
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 968-6640
TDD: (805) 968-6790

File Code: 1500/2300

Date: October 27, 2015

Nick Franco
Deputy Director of County Parks
County of San Luis Obispo
1087 Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93408

Dear Mr. Franco:

The Los Padres National Forest is pleased to support the Central Coast Motorcycle Association (CCMA) and the County of San Luis Obispo in submitting four grant applications in support of the Off-Highway Vehicle(OHV) recreation program on the Santa Lucia Ranger District.

The first proposal is to conduct trail tread work and drainage structure repair on various trails on the District including Mare Springs, Howards Bypass, and Las Chiches trails. The maintenance will be accomplished by various methods including hand work to be completed by contract labor such as the California Conservation Corps, and mechanized trail maintenance using power equipment. CCMA volunteers, using their own vehicles and trail dozer, will provide some grading, labor and logistical support including 4X4 pick-up trucks, equipment trailers, ATV's and UTV's. The CCMA is requesting \$29,000 for this purpose.

In addition, the CCMA is requesting grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 for the purchase of equipment, including attachments for the trail dozer, power equipment to install fencing and retaining walls, and other items for use on the trail system. The CCMA has been successful in obtaining grant funding for the purchase of a Sutter Trail Dozer which is one of only two such machines on the Los Padres. Additional equipment such as attachments for the dozer will increase the effectiveness of the trail maintenance program.

Since 2014 the CCMA has been coordinating the Pozo La Panza Reroute Project. This planning project would reroute approximately 10 sections of trail on the Pozo La Panza trail system. The project is being done in coordination with Forest Service resource specialists who provide oversight. Due to the retirement of the District archaeologist and other factors we understand the project has exhausted available funding and will require supplemental funding in the amount of \$12,000. We support this request.

We understand that the CCMA is submitting a fourth request this year to augment funding available to the County Public Works Department to improve approximately 8000 feet of High Mountain Road. This section of road traverses private property and therefore cannot be maintained by the Forest Service. The majority of the road is located on federal lands.



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Maintenance of the non-federal section has been a longstanding problem and we support the CCMA's request for \$20,000 in maintenance funding.

A combination of state, county, and federal grant funding coordinated by the CCMA has been essential to the District's OHV recreation program. We look forward to the continued leadership and coordination between the CCMA, The County of San Luis Obispo, and the Forest Service. Thanks you for your efforts in providing ways to improve recreational activities on the forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Baird", with a horizontal line extending to the left.

FOR

ROBERT BAIRD
Forest Supervisor